

## REMARKS

Following the entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-13 have been canceled, claims 18-34 have been added, and no claims have been amended. Accordingly, claims 14-34 are presented for examination. No new matter has been added. By this Amendment, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

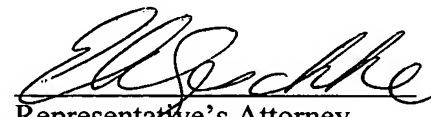
Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to take such proper actions so that a patent will issue herefrom as soon as possible.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

The Examiner is authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments associated with this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicholas R. Arnot

Date: MARCH 12, 2004  
WIGGIN and DANA LLP  
One Century Tower  
New Haven, CT 06508-1832  
Telephone : (203) 498-4345  
Facsimile: (203) 782-2889

  
Representative's Attorney  
Elizabeth A. Geschke  
Reg. No. 52,941